

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A bolt retention assembly comprising:

a first component defining a first hole, said first hole having a first threaded bore defining a first bore diameter and a first counter-bore defining a first counter-bore diameter greater than said first bore diameter, said first threaded bore and said first counter-bore defining a first relief therebetween; and

a second component for mounting to said first component, said second component having a second hole axially aligned with said first hole of said first component, said second hole including a second threaded bore defining a second bore diameter and a second counter-bore defining a second counter-bore diameter greater than said second bore diameter, said second threaded bore and said second counter-bore defining a second relief therebetween;

a bolt having a shank portion and a threaded portion extending through said first component, said threaded portion threadingly engageable with said first threaded bore and abuttable with said first relief preventing said bolt from being removed from said first hole after said threaded portion is rotatably threaded past said first threaded bore and threadingly engageable with said second bore to clamp said second component to said first component, said threaded portion having a predetermined length (L2);

said first and second counter-bores extend coaxially along a combined length (L3) defined between said first and second relief; and wherein

said combined length (L3) of said first and second counter-bores is greater than said length (L2) of said threaded portion of said bolt to prevent simultaneous engagement of said threaded portion with each of said first and second threaded bores.

2. (Currently Amended) A bolt retention assembly as set forth in claim 1 wherein said bolt further includes a head formed on said shank portion opposite said threaded portion for

preventing said bolt from passing completely through said first hole after said threaded portion is rotatably threaded past said first threaded bore.

3. (Currently Amended) A bolt retention assembly as set forth in claim 2 wherein said shank portion defines an outer shank diameter and said first bore diameter is greater than said outer shank diameter to allow said shank portion to slide therethrough between said head and said threaded portion.

4. (Currently Amended) A bolt retention assembly as set forth in claim 3 wherein said threaded portion defines a minor outer diameter and an outer thread diameter greater than said minor outer diameter and said shank diameter, and said first and second counter-bore diameter is counter-bore diameters being greater than said outer thread diameter to allow said threaded portion to move axially through each of said first and second counter-bore.

5. (Currently Amended) A bolt retention assembly as set forth in claim [[4]] 16 wherein said first component is a coolant pump for assembly to an engine.

6. A bolt retention assembly as set forth in claim 5 wherein said coolant pump includes a housing having a plurality of bosses defining through holes extending axially between first and second ends.

7. (Currently Amended) A bolt retention assembly as set forth in claim 6 wherein said through hole includes said first threaded bore for threadingly engaging with said threaded portion of said bolt and said first counter-bore extending from said first threaded bore to said second end for freely receiving said threaded portion therethrough.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Canceled)

10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) A bolt retention assembly as set forth in claim [[10]] 7 wherein said second component is a mounting portion of an engine and wherein said mounting portion includes a plurality of bosses having through-holes defined by said second bore and said second counter-bore.

12. (Original) A method of retaining a bolt having a threaded portion, a shank and a head to a first component having a hole extending therethrough from a first surface to a second surface wherein the hole defines a bore and a counter-bore coaxial therewith and defining a relief therebetween, the method comprising the step of rotatably driving the bolt through the bore such that the bolt is held loosely at the shank portion between the bore and counter-bore wherein the bolt is retained coaxially in one direction by engagement between the head and the first surface of the component and an opposite direction by engagement between the threaded portion and the relief.

13. (New) A bolt retention assembly as set forth in claim 4 wherein said first relief extends generally perpendicularly between said first bore and said first counter-bore.

14. (New) A bolt retention assembly as set forth in claim 13 wherein said second relief extends generally perpendicularly between said second bore and said second counter-bore.

15. (New) A bolt retention assembly as set forth in claim 14 wherein said first component includes opposite first and second surfaces, said first threaded bore extending axially from said first surface to said first relief and said first counter-bore extending axially from said first relief to said second surface.

16. (New) A bolt retention assembly as set forth in claim 15 wherein said second component includes opposite first and second surfaces, said second counter-bore extending from said first surface to said second relief and said second threaded bore extending axially from said second relief to said second surface, and wherein said second surface of said first component abuts said first surface of said second component to axially align said first and second counter-bores.